I CLAIM:

1. Use of the compound

where R is CH₃ or an alkyl to prepare a pharmaceutical composition useful for effecting a reduction in whole blood viscosity in a mammal.

- 2. The use of Claim 1, wherein said alkyl having 2 to 6 carbons.
- 3. A pharmaceutical preparation in dosage unit form adapted for administration to obtain a reduction in whole blood viscosity, comprising, per dosage unit, an effective, nontoxic amount of a compound comprising

- 5 wherein R is CH₃ or an alkyl and a pharmaceutical carrier.
 - 4. The pharmaceutical dosage form of Claim 3, wherein said alkyl having 2 to 6 carbons.
 - 5. The pharmaceutical dosage form of Claim 3 or 4, wherein said dosage is from about 1 milligram to about 6 milligrams per kilogram body weight.

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6. A method for treatment of high whole blood viscosity in a patient comprising administering in a treatment regimen to said patient an effective amount of a composition comprising

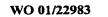
- where R is CH₃ or an alkyl, wherein said treatment regimen is capable of reducing whole blood viscosity in said patient.
 - 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said alkyl having 2 to 6 carbons.
 - 8. The method of Claim 6 or 7, wherein said effective amount is from about 1 milligram to about 6 milligrams per kilogram body weight.
 - 9 A method for reducing whole blood viscosity in a patient blood sample, comprising the steps of:
 - a. collecting a blood sample from said patient; and

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b. adding to said sample an effective amount of a composition comprising the compound

wherein R is CH₃ or an alkyl, wherein said effective amount causes a reduction in whole blood viscosity.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said alkyl having 2 to 6 carbons.



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11. A method for monitoring the reduction of whole blood viscosity in a patient receiving treatment with a composition comprising

where R is CH₃ or an alkyl of 2 to 6 carbons, comprising:

- a. at a first time point, collecting a blood sample from said patient to form a first patient sample;
 - b. measuring the viscosity of said first patient sample to obtain a first viscosity value;
- c. at a second time point, collecting a blood sample from said patient to form a second patient sample;
 - e. measuring the viscosity of said second patient sample to obtain a second viscosity value; and
 - f. comparing said second viscosity value to said first viscosity value,
 - wherein a reduction of viscosity is demonstrated by said second viscosity value being less than said first viscosity value.
 - 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said viscosity value is determined by drawing an aliquot of said patient sample into a pipette which is in a stationary vertical position and measuring the time required to expel a drop of said patient sample from said pipette using constant pressure to obtain a time interval as said viscosity value.

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13. A screening method for determining if a patient's whole blood viscosity can be reduced by a treatment regimen with a composition comprising

where R is CH₃ or an alkyl of 2 to 6 carbons, comprising:

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- a. collecting a blood sample from said patient prior to administration of said composition to form an untreated patient sample;
 - b. measuring the viscosity of said untreated patient sample to obtain a baseline viscosity value;
 - c. administering to said patient said composition at an amount from about 1 milligram to about 6 milligrams per kilogram body weight;
 - d. after administrating said composition to said patient, collecting a blood sample from said patient to form a treated patient sample;
 - e. measuring the viscosity of said treated patient sample to obtain a posttreatment viscosity value; and
 - f. comparing said post-treatment viscosity value to said baseline viscosity value,

wherein said post-treatment viscosity value being less than said baseline time viscosity value demonstrating said composition is capable of reducing whole blood viscosity in said patient and wherein said post-treatment viscosity value being greater than or equal to said baseline viscosity value demonstrating said composition is not capable of reducing whole blood viscosity in said patient.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said viscosity value is determined by drawing an aliquot of said patient sample into a pipette which is in a stationary vertical position and measuring the time required to expel a drop of said patient sample from said pipette using constant pressure to obtain a time interval as said viscosity value.



15. A method for treating a patient having a disease characterized by abnormally viscous whole blood comprising administering in a treatment regimen to said patient an effective amount of a composition comprising

- where R is CH₃ or an alkyl, wherein said treatment regimen is capable of reducing whole blood viscosity in said patient.
 - 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said alkyl having 2 to 6 carbons.
 - 17. The method of Claim 15 or 16, wherein said effective amount is from about 1 milligram to about 6 milligrams per kilogram body weight.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 01/22983 A3

(51) International Patent Classification7: G01N 33/49, A61P 7/00

A61K 38/05,

- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/25874
- (22) International Filing Date:

21 September 2000 (21.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/156,119

25 September 1999 (25.09.1999)

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): OK-LAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; 825 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MANION, Carl, V.

[US/US]; 6313 Overcourt Manor, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 (US).

- (74) Agents: HANSEN, Eugenia, S. et al.; Sidley & Austin, Suite 3400, 717 North Harwood, Dallas, TX 75201 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AU, CA, MX, US.
- (84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SÉ).

Published:

with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 16 August 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



(54) Title: VISCOSITY MODULATING SUBSTANCE AND USE THEREOF

(57) Abstract: It has now been found that N-L-alpha-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester (APM) lowers whole blood viscosity in patients, including those suffering from sickle cell disease and plasma cell dyscrasias. Upon in vivo APM treatment, patients experienced a significant lowering of whole blood viscosity. In vitro addition of APM to patients samples having elevated whole blood viscosity resulted in reduced viscosity over time. These in vitro and in vivo results identify APM as a therapeutic agent for molecular diseases which lead to elevated whole blood viscosity. A method by which APM treatment can be monitored is also disclosed.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61K38/05 G01N33/49

A61P7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K GO1N CO7K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, MEDLINE, CANCERLIT, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE, SCISEARCH

	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		<u> </u>
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of	the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 00692 A (OKLAHOMA MED R; EDMUNDSON ALLEN B (US); MANI (US)) 9 January 1997 (1997-01 cited in the application page 39, line 17 -page 44, li	ON CARL V -09)	1-17
χ Fur	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family member	rs are listed in annex.
"A" docum consi "E" eartier filing "L" docum which citatio "O" docum other	nent defining the general state of the art which is not idered to be of particular relevance of document but published on or after the international date on the state of the document of the control of	cited to understand the prinvention "X" document of particular reterent cannot be considered now involve an inventive step where the cannot be considered to it document is combined with	conflict with the application but inciple or theory underlying the vance; the claimed invention et or cannot be considered to when the document is taken alone vance; the claimed invention nvolve an inventive step when the the one or more other such docubeing obvious to a person skilled
Date of the	13 March 2001	23/03/2001	

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		PC1/US UU/258/4
C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DATABASE BIOSIS 'Online! BIOSCIENCES INFORMATION SERVICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA, US; 1979 POKROVSKII A V ET AL: "HEMO RHEOLOGICAL DISORDERS IN PATIENTS WITH ATHERO SCLEROTIC LESION OF THE ABDOMINAL AORTA AND THEIR CORRECTION USING ASPIRIN" Database accession no. PREV198069069702 XP002162682 abstract & KARDIOLOGIYA, vol. 19, no. 2, 1979, pages 54-61, ISSN: 0022-9040	
Α	MANION C V ET AL: "SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND ASPARTAME." CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS,US,MOSBY-YEAR BOOK, ST LOUIS, MO, vol. 65, no. 2, February 1999 (1999-02), page 194 XP000891777 ISSN: 0009-9236 the whole document	1-17
P,X	WO 00 18418 A (EDMUNDSON ALLEN B ;MANION CARL V (US); OKLAHOMA MED RES FOUND (US)) 6 April 2000 (2000-04-06) cited in the application page 12, line 14 - line 18 page 19, line 1 -page 21, line 10 claims 1-29	1-17
P,X	MANION C V ET AL: "SICKLE CELL VISCOSITY ALTERATION WITH ASPARTAME" CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS,US,MOSBY-YEAR BOOK, ST LOUIS, MO, vol. 67, no. 2, February 2000 (2000-02), page 102 XP000891560 ISSN: 0009-9236 the whole document	1-17
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nfor on patent family members

In	al Application No
PCT/US	al Application No 00/25874

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9700692	Α	09-01-1997	US 5654334 A AU 722460 B AU 6287896 A CA 2225462 A EP 0833651 A JP 2000502318 T US 5998473 A	05-08-1997 03-08-2000 22-01-1997 09-01-1997 08-04-1998 29-02-2000 07-12-1999
WO 0018418	Α	06-04-2000	AU 6400899 A	17-04-2000

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-	Mark O	PCT	_

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

						-,
Applicant'	s or a	gent's file reference			See Notific	ation of Transmittal of International
11146/1	1002	2	FOR FURTHER A	CTION	Preliminary	Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
Internation	nal app	olication No.	International filing date	(day/month	/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/US	PCT/US00/25874 21/09/2000					25/09/1999
A61K38 Applicant OKLAH	/00 OMA interr	MEDICAL RESEARCH	H FOUNDATION et a	l.	by this Inte	rnational Preliminary Examining Authority
⊠ - t (This re been a see F	ORT consists of a total of eport is also accompanie amended and are the baselule 70.16 and Section 60 exes consist of a total of	d by ANNEXES, i.e. she sis for this report and/or 07 of the Administrative	eets of the	e description	n, claims and/or drawings which have ctifications made before this Authority e PCT).
3. This	report ⊠ □	contains indications rela Basis of the report Priority	iting to the following iten	ns:		
111	\boxtimes	•	pinion with regard to no	veltv. inve	entive step a	nd industrial applicability
. IV		Lack of unity of invention		,		по п
V	\boxtimes	Reasoned statement ur citations and explanation	nder Article 35(2) with re	egard to ne	ovelty, inver	ntive step or industrial applicability;
VI	\boxtimes	Certain documents cite				·
VII		Certain defects in the in	ternational application			
VIII		Certain observations on	n the international applic	ation		
Date of sub	missic	on of the demand		Date of co	empletion of the	nis report
18/04/20	01			07.11.200	1	
		address of the international		Authorized	d officer	S ISOES MICUTA
preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465			epmu d	Deck, A	e No. +49 89 2	2399 8432

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/25874

I. Basis	of '	the	rep	ori	l
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1	the an	With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)): Description, pages:						
	1-1	14	as originally filed					
	Cla	aims, No.:						
	1-1	14	as received on	12/10/2001	with letter of	12/10/2001		
	Dra	awings, sheets:						
	1/3	3-3/3	as originally filed					
2.	Wit lan	h regard to the lang guage in which the i	juage , all the elements marke international application was	ed above were a filed, unless othe	vailable or furnishe erwise indicated un	ed to this Authority in the der this item.		
	The	ese elements were a	available or furnished to this A	Authority in the fo	ollowing language:	, which is:		
			translation furnished for the p			(under Rule 23.1(b)).		
		the language of pu	blication of the international a	application (unde	er Rule 48.3(b)).			
		the language of a t 55.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the p	urposes of interr	national preliminary	examination (under Rule	>	
3.	With	h regard to any nuc rnational preliminar	leotide and/or amino acid s y examination was carried ou	equence disclos t on the basis of	sed in the internation the sequence listing	onal application, the ng:		
		contained in the int	ternational application in writt	en form.				
		filed together with t	the international application ir	computer reada	able form.			
		furnished subseque	ently to this Authority in writte	n form.				
		furnished subseque	ently to this Authority in comp	uter readable fo	rm.			
		The statement that the international ap	the subsequently furnished voplication as filed has been fu	vritten sequence rnished.	listing does not go	beyond the disclosure in	ı	
		The statement that listing has been fur	the information recorded in c nished.	omputer readab	le form is identical	to the written sequence		
	The	amendments have	resulted in the cancellation o	f:				
		the description,	pages:					
		the claims,	Nos.:					

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/25874

		the drawings, sheets:
5.	. 🗆	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
		(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)
6.	Add	ditional observations, if necessary:
H	. No	n-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
1.	The obv	e questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non- ious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:
		the entire international application.
	×	claims Nos. 3-5.12-14.
be	caus	se:
	⊠	the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 3-5, 12-14 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (<i>specify</i>): see separate sheet
		the description, claims or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):
		the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
		no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos
2.	and/	eaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide for amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative uctions:
		the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
		the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
	citat	soned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; ions and explanations supporting such statement
	Nove	elty (N) Yes: Claims 1-14



International application No. PCT/US00/25874

No:

Claims

Inventive step (IS)

Yes:

Claims 1-14

No:

Claims

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes: No: Claims

Claims see separate sheet

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

S ction III:

Claims 3-5, 12-14 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).

Section V:

- 1. The following documents have been considered:
 - D1: WO 97 00692 A (OKLAHOMA MED RES FOUND ;EDMUNDSON ALLEN B (US); MANION CARL V (US)) 9 January 1997 (1997-01-09) cited in the application
 - D2: MANION C V ET AL: 'SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND ASPARTAME.' CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS, US, MOSBY-YEAR BOOK, ST LOUIS, MO, vol. 65, no. 2, February 1999 (1999-02), page 194 XP000891777 ISSN: 0009-9236
- 2. Claims 1-14 are new and inventive as none of the prior art describes nor suggests the anti-viscosity activity of aspartame or its derivatives.
- For the assessment of the present claims 3-5, 12-14 on the question whether they 3. are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

International application No. PCT/US00/25874

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Section V■:

Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No Patent No

Publication date (day/month/year)

Filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)

WO-A-0018418

06.04.2000

25.09.1999

25.09.1998

The priority of this document is validly claimed. Its content could therefore be relevant in the national phases.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT	To:
NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION	Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark
(PCT Rule 61.2)	Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202
Date of mailing (day/month/year)	ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
17 July 2001 (17.07.01)	
International application No. PCT/US00/25874	Applicant's or agent's file reference 11146/11002
International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
21 September 2000 (21.09.00)	25 September 1999 (25.09.99)
Applicant	
MANION, Carl, V.	
The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made in the demand filed with the International Preliminar 18 April 2001	y Examining Authority on:
in a notice effecting later election filed with the Inter	national Bureau on:
2. The election X was was not made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority of the 20 2(4).	date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under
Rule 32.2(b).	,
The International Bureau of WIPO	Authorized officer
34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	H. Zhou

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

10/08/27/3

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

	From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
PCT	То:
NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING OF A CHANGE (PCT Rule 92bis.1 and Administrative Instructions, Section 422) Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23 April 2002 (23.04.02)	HANSEN, Eugenia, S. Sidley & Austin Brown & Wood Suite 3400 717 North Harwood Dallas, TX 75201 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
Applicant's or agent's file reference	
11146/11002	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)
PCT/US00/25874	21 September 2000 (21.09.00)
1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: the applicant the inventor	X the agent the common representative
Name and Address HANSEN, Eugenia, S.	State of Nationality State of Residence
Sidley & Austin Suite 3400 717 North Harwood	Telephone No. 214-981-3315
Dallas, TX 75201 United States of America	Facsimile No.
Office Otates of Affection	214-981-3400
	Teleprinter No.
The transaction of Durane barehy position the applicant that t	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that t the person the name X the add	
Name and Address	State of Nationality State of Residence
HANSEN, Eugenia, S. Sidley & Austin Brown & Wood	Telephone No.
Suite 3400 717 North Harwood	214-981-3315
Dallas, TX 75201 United States of America	Facsimile No.
0111100 01111010101	214-981-3400
	Teleprinter No.
3. Further observations, if necessary:	
a. Future: observations, i. necessary.	
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:	
X the receiving Office	the designated Offices concerned
the International Searching Authority	X the elected Offices concerned
X the International Preliminary Examining Authority	other:
The second of th	Authorized officer
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Georgie 20, Suitestand	Anne BEUCHAT
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

NSON



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FOR FURTHER see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report						
11146/11002	(Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.					
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)				
PCT/US 00/25874	21/09/2000	25/09/1999				
Applicant						
OKLAHOMA MEDICAL DECEADOLL	FOUNDATION - 1					
OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH	FOUNDATION et al.					
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth	nority and is transmitted to the applicant				
This International Search Report consists It is also accompanied by	of a total of sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report				
1. Basis of the report						
	international search was carried out on the bas ess otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the				
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	ras carried out on the basis of a translation of t	ne international application furnished to this				
With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of the		ternational application, the international search				
l —	e sequence listing : anal application in written form.					
filed together with the inte	ernational application in computer readable form	n.				
	this Authority in written form.					
	this Authority in computer readble form.	account to beyond the displacture in the				
international application a	osequently furnished written sequence listing d is filed has been furnished.	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the				
the statement that the info furnished	ormation recorded in computer readable form is	s identical to the written sequence listing has been				
2. X Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).					
3. Unity of invention is lac	king (see Box II).					
4. With regard to the title ,						
X the text is approved as su	ibmitted by the applicant.					
the text has been establis	hed by this Authority to read as follows:					
5. With regard to the abstract,						
the text is approved as submitted by the applicant. the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.						
6. The figure of the drawings to be publ	lished with the abstract is Figure No.					
as suggested by the appli	icant.	X None of the figures.				
because the applicant fail						
because this figure better	characterizes the invention.					

International Application No T/US 00/25874 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MA A61P7/00 G01N33/49 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61K GO1N C07K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) BIOSIS, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, MEDLINE, CANCERLIT, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE, SCISEARCH C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages -Relevant-to-claim-No. WO 97 00692 A (OKLAHOMA MED RES FOUND 1 - 17;EDMUNDSON ALLEN B (US); MANION CARL V (US)) 9 January 1997 (1997-01-09) cited in the application page 39, line 17 -page 44, line 15 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

- 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled

Date of mailing of the international search report

"&" document member of the same patent family

13 March 2001

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

23/03/2001

Authorized officer

Stein, A

International Application No T/US 00/25874

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